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THE GAVEL

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW

December 2021

Election 2021: Why Oftentimes the Polls Cannot Predict the Will of the People

Michael Dunham
Gavel Contributor

On Tuesday November 2, 2021, election day in America began, at least for those who wished to vote in-person at their designated polling place. In Virginia's 2021 gubernatorial election, Republican businessman Greg Youngkin defeated former Democratic Governor Terry McAuliffe in an incredibly tight race. The Republicans also took over Virginia's House of Delegates. The House of Delegates is America's oldest legislature and was established in 1619. Virginia has been voting for the Democratic presidential nominee since President Obama first ran in 2008, making Youngkin's victory quite a shock to many political scientists. Historically, the party who is in the White House often sees huge setbacks after being elected in state, local, and midterm elections. Research director Robert Griffin at the Democracy Fund Voter Study Group stated in part, "We tend to see electoral swings against the party of the president after they're in office..." This is not a new phenomenon. Republicans made huge gains in Congress in the 2010 elections. Virginia's state politics are an amalgamation of the said phenomena.

In New Jersey, Democratic Governor Phil Murphy barely won a second term in a state where Biden won by almost 20 points last year. Governor Murphy was the first Democratic governor to be reelected since 1977. The odds were in Murphy's favor in the polls, he had tons of donors, and he was able to register a million more Democratic voters over Republicans, but he still hardly squeaked out a



Justin Bibb declares victory as first new Cleveland mayor since 2005 at the historic Olivet Institutional Baptist Church. *Cleveland 19 News*

victory. Some consider these two close calls a bellwether of next year's midterms. Ashley Koning, the director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University stated, "A race like this in New Jersey and a shock like this in New Jersey is going to set not just a statewide but a nationwide tone in the 2022 midterms."

In Ohio, municipal elections were held across the state. Overall, the Republicans made gains, mainly in rural areas. In Cuyahoga County, the Democrats held most of their seats, keeping the county a solid shade of blue. The biggest race in Ohio was in Cleveland's mayoral race between Progressive Democrat Justin Bibb and Moderate Democrat Kevin Kelley. Bibb beat Moderate Democrat Kelley in a landslide.

Issue 24 was also passed in Cleveland, which related to further police reform. This gives a commission of non-police authority over the kinds of police disci-

pline employed statewide. Down south in Hamilton County, Ohio, Aftab Pureval was elected as mayor of Cincinnati, defeating fellow Democrat David Mann. Mayor-Elect Pureval will succeed term-limited Mayor John Cranley, and is the first Asian American mayor of

Cincinnati, making his win historic within Cincinnati local politics. Therefore, in Ohio, red counties like those in rural areas became even more conservative, whereas blue counties became more liberal. This was the case in both Cuyahoga County and Hamilton County.

Overall, the 2021 elections nationwide were a bit of a shock to some Democrats, and a happy surprise to some Republicans, but it remains to be seen how the newly elected Bibb, Pureval, and Youngkin are going to implement change in their constituencies.



Cincinnati elects its first Asian American mayor, Aftab Pureval. *NBC News*

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Student Bar
Association: Who
Represents Us?

Davona Mason
Gavel Contributor

The Student Bar Association is the student-led governing body within the law school backed by the American Bar Association (ABA). We function as advocates for all student needs within the law school and we are a facilitating partner with the ABA. Our SBA is made up of an executive board and a collection of senators per class.

SBA Executive Board consists of: Davona Mason (President), Bess Mossad (Vice President), Christina O’Brien (Treasurer), Kaley LaForce (Secretary), Katey Hach (Director of Development), and Christopher Dobeck (Ombudsperson).

Glasgow 2021: Glass, Whoa Climate Change Requires Urgent Action

Gabriella Russo
Editor-in-Chief

Climate change is an imminent threat to not only the life forms of Earth, but Earth as a planet and its capabilities. The primary goal of the Glasgow Summit was to have countries around the world commit to not allowing the average global temperature to rise above 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to when the planet had not yet become industrialized.

The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties, also known as the COP26 to the United Framework Convention on Climate Change, was held November 1-12 of this year. This created a wave of new climate-related promises from a vast array of countries. According to the *New York Times* coverage of the COP26, India, a huge polluter, promised to reach net-zero emissions by the year 2070, the first time an actual viable target has been set. India’s country has one of the highest levels of smog in its atmosphere, making a promise like this remarkable.

Approximately 105 countries signed a document devoted to slashing emissions of methane, which is one of the most potent greenhouse gases currently in the atmosphere, by 30 percent within the remaining 2020s.

If the countries who made these pledges honor them, then the International Energy Agency stated that the world could limit the average global warming temperature to 1.8 degrees



US Climate Envoy, John Kerry said, “cooperation is the only way to get this done.”
BBC News

Celsius by 2100, still substantially falling short of the 1.5-degree Celsius goal.

If the global temperature rises above 1.5 degrees Celsius this could bring about catastrophic effects such as heat waves, droughts, wildfires, and flooding, according to climate scientists.

The problem with the International Energy Agency’s analysis is that it assumes countries with some of the highest emissions like China, Brazil, Australia, and Saudi Arabia will be able to fulfill their obligations. None of these countries have any kind of comprehensive policy on how to achieve this, however.

“Governments are making bold promises for future decades, but short-term action is insufficient,” stated Fatih Birol, the executive of the International Energy Agency. The U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry, showed a level of skepticism toward

these promises too saying, “All of us have seen years of frustration for promises that are made but not kept. We understand that. But I believe what is happening here is far from business as usual.”

Unfortunately, two of the world’s largest emitters, President Xi Jinping of China and President Vladimir Putin of Russia, did not show up in person to this summit. China is the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases, so the lack of a physical representative speaks wonders about the seriousness China is showing towards climate change.

The first step in combating climate change is, at the very least, showing up, but Presidents Jinping and Putin could not even do this. Representatives from both Russia and China were present wherein Kerry said he was trying to find, “...a way to move forward.”

By the end of the almost

two-week summit, there was an agreement among almost 200 nations that emerged stating the fight against the climate crisis needed to accelerate. Aside from this much-needed acceleration, the pledges made to slow climate change also needed to be stronger.

Some of the most notable accomplishments from this nearly two-week conference include new pledges on methane gas pollution, limits to deforestation, coal financing, and a completed set of rules on carbon trading between the U.S and China in the future.

Climate change still has a long, uncertain road to truly slowing down the horrible effects of industrialization, but for now, there may be hope on the horizon.

Unfortunately, only time will tell, and in the not so near future, this unnamable window of time may be too late to slow the steady, speedy climate calamity.

1L/E Senators consist of: Ernest Olesky, Philip Shipman, Jalela Jallaq, Dana Bye, and Sarah Wilson (1LE).

2L/E Senators consist of: Jonathan Alamir, Patrick Fox, Gabby Hartstein, Hannah Mahaffey, and David Linden (2LE).

3L/E Senators consist of: Michael Dunham, Josh Friedman, Matt Goins, and Christopher Dobeck (3LE). Lastly, Liz Jackson is the 4LE Senator.

Our most recent effort to connect with students is the feedback initiative spearheaded by 2L Senator,

Gabby Harstein. This initiative is an action to bridge the gap between the SBA and students, as well as bring attention to key issues before administration. SBA has created a Google form for students to speak their minds, found at shorturl.at/nwBX. SBA advocates on behalf of students by sitting on several Dean’s Faculty committees that are focused on recruitment, curriculum, bar support, academic standards, and more. In addition to partnering with the administration, we also plan large-scale events and host committees based on

wellness, diversity, budget management, and event planning, to name a few.

We also host a store in the basement of the law school building that is open during select hours filled with tons of law school swag, like sweaters, hats, umbrellas, mugs, and more. Lastly, SBA provides funds to all student organizations within the law school that properly complete a funding request. If you are interested in gaining funding, please contact SBA Treasurer, Christina O’Brien, at c.obrien5@cmlaw.csuohio.edu.

Lastly, in partnership with

the ABA, we assist you in gaining access to your membership that is granted through your student status. We also pass on ABA leadership opportunities, such as council membership and other information the ABA seeks to get out. ABA membership information can be found at shorturl.at/qGKOY. Additionally, the ABA offers bonus discounts to Quimbee, MBE prep, Bar prep, and more. For more details on ABA insights, feel free to contact Davona A. Mason at d.a.mason78@cmlaw.csuohio.edu.

CM Law Faculty Spotlight: Get to Know Professor Lazarus!

Rachel Reinbolt
Haley Muehlbauer
Gavel Contributors

This new series to The Gavel will shine a spotlight on a different CM Law faculty member each issue. This month, we had the pleasure of interviewing Professor Lazarus. It was truly an honor hearing about his life story a bit more and we hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

Professor Lazarus was born in Brooklyn, New York, but resided in Long Island for the majority of his childhood. If you ask him about his favorite baseball team, he'll tell you that he has never forgiven the Brooklyn Dodgers owners for transferring the team to Los Angeles. He loved spending his summers relaxing and reading books at Jones Beach. After high school, Professor Lazarus attended Williams College in Massachusetts, where he met some of his lifelong best friends. Upon completion of college, he was still up for a challenge and decided to try law school. He ended up at Harvard.

Being a Harvard man was not all it was cracked up to be for Professor Lazarus. He found law school boring, impractical, and not at all challenging enough. After law school, Professor Lazarus enlisted in the National Guard and when his service was over, he

began his legal career. He landed his first job interview with The Legal Aid Society in Manhattan. He knew his work "wasn't curing poverty," but it gave him satisfaction in knowing that his clients finally "had someone standing up for them." While working for Legal Services, Professor Lazarus was told by a paralegal that he was a good lawyer, but an even better teacher. He was given the opportunity to teach at a new clinical-style law school, called Antioch School of Law, in Washington DC. After his time at Antioch, he was directed toward Cleveland-Marshall to teach more clinical work. With no intentions of ever teaching, who would have thought he would end up being one of our school's most beloved professors?

While we went into this interview expecting Professor Lazarus to talk about his legal career, we were amazed by the stories he told of his wild adventures. What you may not know about Professor Lazarus is that he is an extremely well-seasoned traveler. In fact, he has hitch hiked across the United States countless times. We could not believe the stories we were hearing coming from the man who teaches us about negligence at nine in the morning. From sleeping in hostels in San Francisco, picking casaba melons for \$1.10 an hour when his money was

running low, and spontaneous detours to Billings, Montana, Professor Lazarus has witnessed it all.

To let his family know he was alive and well, he would make collect calls home every three days. To avoid racking up a call bill, he would give the name of a Dodger's player as code so once his mom heard the name, she would not have to accept the call. While driving through Arkansas during the summer of 1964, Professor Lazarus made his check-in call back home. His mom actually accepted the call this time, and informed him that he had passed his bar exam! Professor Lazarus referred to his hitchhiking adventures as some of the most memorable and significant times of his life.

Besides reading, spending time with his wife, and exploring the US with just a backpack, Professor Lazarus has had some other fascinating hobbies. To our surprise, he was an avid skydiver! After seeing an advertisement for it at the movie theater, he and his fraternity brothers decided to give it a try. He ended up really enjoying it and went back four more times. Although he was never able to complete his freefall jump, we are still hopeful that he will cross it off his bucket list one day. These days, Professor Lazarus spends his free time doing less venturesome activities, and enjoys play-



Professor Stephen Lazarus, CM Law faculty since 1973.
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

ing the guitar. He will tell you he isn't any good - but we don't believe him.

From this interview, we have discovered that Professor Lazarus wears many hats. He is a devoted teacher, a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, a guitar player, a professional hitch hiker, a retired skydiver, and a caretaker to many office plants. He is an inspiration to us all and a great example to never stop challenging yourself. We want to thank Professor Lazarus for giving us the opportunity to get to know

him better. It was truly an amazing time. Some last minute finals advice from Professor Lazarus:

1. Make sure you get not one, but two good nights of sleep before your exam.
2. Don't be satisfied with your outline as a product. Make sure you are going back to change and add to it.
3. Keep looking toward the future because finals are only temporary! You won't flunk out.

"How's studying for finals going?"



r/LawSchool Reddit

*The Gavel wishes all
CM Law students
GOOD LUCK
on your
Fall exams!*

Cleveland Marshall Law Name Change Townhall Update

Catelyn Cook
Managing Editor

On November 19, 2021, Cleveland-Marshall held a student-centered town hall focused on offering updates in regard to the potential renaming of the law school. Dean Lee Fisher held the town hall to both inform students of the status of the name change process and to gather input as to how students are feeling about the issue. It is his goal to serve as an effective and fair facilitator during these proceedings, and as such, he has refrained from sharing his own personal views at this time.

To provide background for the current debate, the discussion about changing the name of the law school began following the release of the book “Supreme Injustice” by Paul Finkelman, which describes how Chief Justice John Marshall sold and owned slaves. Since then, schools with his name have been considering whether to change it, with the John Marshall Law School in Chicago deciding to become the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law instead. After the circulation of a petition in summer of 2020 gained over 1,000 signatures, Cleveland-Marshall has begun considering a similar move. The name change issue had not previously been raised before this petition. As it stands now, there are a few possibilities of directions this can take.

One option is for the law school to continue to keep its current name. According to Dean Fisher, those in favor of this option point

to John Marshall’s achievements in the field of constitutional law. They would argue that he is one of the greatest justices of all time based on these achievements, and therefore the good outweighs the bad. Additionally, they feel that changing the name is taking political correctness too far, and compare changing the law school’s name to changing things named after George Washington, like Washington DC, or Abraham Lincoln.

Another option is to keep the name “Marshall”, but not in honor of John Marshall. Instead, the name would be changed to honor Thurgood Marshall. Thurgood Marshall served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and was the first ever African American Supreme Court Justice.

The last option is to change the name of the school completely, though specific possibilities of other names were not discussed. In addition to changing the name, this whole experience could be used as a teachable moment. The law school could revisit the history of the decision and educate students about its significance in the following years. A name committee composed of students, faculty, and staff has been formed to discuss this in depth. A framing document outlining these possible outcomes and components being considered will be drafted and sent out, along with a survey.

Students had a lot to say in favor of changing the name of the law school, and about the process. Many students

were disheartened by the fact that these discussions have been taking place for 18 months with no decision. They voiced concern at the lack of urgency as graduation approaches, with many not wanting John Marshall’s name on their degrees.

When giving reasons why they feel the name should be changed, students made the following points:

- We should focus on the moral issue at hand and want our concerns taken seriously.
- If we want to say that we are the guardians of justice and embrace learn law, live justice as our model and creed, then continuing to have this name is wrong.
- As a school that strives to stand for leadership, this is a moment to stand behind that goal and be leaders. If we take the name off, this shows we are actual leaders in the legal community.
- Some are big fans of history, but even though John Marshall did some notable things in the practice of law, we do not need to glorify him because we stand for justice and should not shine a light on this part of history.
- Given the history and because we are aware of this issue, if we do nothing about it, it comes off as us not living up to our standards. We should stand by what we say we do and not back down because things seem difficult.
- If we change the name, we need to understand the history of why it

happened and its importance. This is not just like taking down a statute in a town square. It’s about saying we know better and will do better and this decision was made with purpose. These are issues of systemic racism. This should have been an easy decision to make, but instead it is taking months to discuss.

- Black students expressed feeling isolated and overlooked to say it’s not worth changing the name, with one student stating that, “Those who would have been slaves at the time would not have mattered and our voices do not matter now if history is enough to say that the name should not be changed.”
- Students also noted that a school group, Students Against Marshall, has been created. This is a way for students to organize and strategize advocating directly to the board members and trustees of Cleveland State University outside of the naming committee.

When closing the discussion, Dean Fisher made the following remarks:

- Some are undervaluing the positions of those who disagree with them. No matter how strong their beliefs, they should listen to other views, even if they do not change their minds.
- It’s not that naming’s in honor of a person should never be changed, but they should not be easily changed. Names do matter. Each case differs

and needs to be decided by those most directly impacted.

- From a constitutional law perspective, John Marshall was the greatest in history, but he led a contradictory life that serves as a constant reminder of our country’s contradictions.
- We need to consult with each other and historians. It is very important that there’s no rush to judgement. While we should resist pressure from all sides to make a fast decision, we cannot slow walk it either. There is a fine line.
- We have an iconic history. We began as a combination of Cleveland Law School and John Marshall School of Law. We then joined Cleveland State University as Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. In considering our name change, be guided by our history and values of living justice, and the values of the university.
- Both sides must be courageous, vocal, and explicit. Everyone needs a chance to be heard. The decision ultimately rests with the university, not the law school. We are nearing the end of the process, which may help the university make an informed decision. Whatever decision is made, those on all sides of the issue should respect it based on the process they undertook. More town halls and discussions will be held at future dates. We will continue to follow developments of this story.



Cleveland 19 News

Update on Gerrymandering in Ohio: Disrupting Democracy

Gabriella Russo
Editor-in-Chief

Imagine it is 2015, and the Ohio Bipartisan Redistricting Commission Amendment, Issue 1, was on the November ballot for Ohioans to decide whether gerrymandering practices in redistricting would be allowed or not. A “yes” would have increased minority party representation on Ohio’s redistricting commission and established new requirements for district boundaries; whereas a “no” would have left current laws and the redistricting processes unchanged – meaning partisan infiltration could still occur. Fair maps are what all states in the union deserve, and Ohio agreed by a nearly 72%-28% margin that the minority party still deserves to share in the political power of our great Buckeye State.

Flash forward to May 2018, Ohio Issue 1, also known as the Congressional Redistricting Procedures Amendment, was put on the ballot as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment. A “yes” vote supported changing the vote requirements to pass congressional redistricting maps and the standards used in congressional redistricting in Ohio. A “no” vote opposed these new congressional redistricting procedures/standards, thus allowing for the Ohio General Assembly to continue adopting congressional redistricting plans through a simple majority vote. Seeing as the Republican party is the majority party, a “no” on Ohio Issue 1 would essentially mean that the Republicans could gerrymander the state’s congressional districts to skew in favor of their party, rather than having a proportionate and representative congressional map.

Ohio Issue 1 resulted in a “yes” vote by a huge margin with 74.89% in favor and 25.11% opposed, meaning this was supported by both parties and not simply a partisan issue. Gerrymandering is an attack on a representative democracy, and Ohio-



Republican Gov. Mike DeWine speaks to state Sen. Vernon Sykes, the co-chair of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, as other members of the panel prepare for a meeting at the Statehouse in Columbus on September 15. *Julie Carr Smyth/AP Photo*

ans knew that when voting in favor of this referendum. Now, redistricting very simply means, according to Ballotpedia, “...the process by which new congressional and state legislative district boundaries are drawn.” Districts, both state and congressional, are drawn based on Census Bureau figures drawn decennially. Because of Covid-19, the Census figures were delayed, meaning the maps could not be accurately drawn until later in 2021.

In the fall of 2021, the Ohio Redistricting Commission, as a result of both

2015 and supplemented by the 2018 ballot initiative, were supposed to create districts in the Statehouse and State Senate. This Redistricting Commission consists of 7 elected officials, 5 being Republican and 2 being Democrat. 2018’s ballot initiative, to reiterate, stated that congressional lines may be drawn by supermajority in the Ohio legislature. This failed, and then the Ohio Redistricting Commission was called upon to fix the existing maps.

If this commission also fails, then the lines are drawn by the state legis-

lature, as a normal statute, subject to gubernatorial veto, and are only valid for 4-years instead of the typical 10-year map to coincide with the Census. There are no statutory mandated requirements for what must be included in each voting district, but the National Council of State Legislatures has come up with a few different suggestions that may help create a more equal map. This includes compactness, meaning each district has the minimum distance between all the parts of a constituency, with a circle, a square, or a hexa-

gon being the most compact district. Contiguity is crucial too, which means all parts of a district should be connected at some point with the district. Preservation of counties/other political subdivisions, preservation of communities of interest, preservation of cores of prior districts, and avoiding pairing incumbents are the traditional criteria that have been codified by many states when drawing their maps.

Despite all of this democratic evidence illustrating how much Ohioans are against gerrymandering, Governor Mike DeWine still signed off on a congressional map that creates 15 new districts in the state, but allows 12 seats of those 15 to be heavily skewed in favor of Republicans. This means that 80% of the districts in the state will lean in favor of Republicans when Trump only won Ohio with 53% of the vote in 2020. “It’s full of weird shapes and squiggly lines. Maps don’t look like this unless you’re trying to secure a partisan outcome rather than fairly representing voters,” says Jen Miller, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

There is no way to definitively prove partisan motivations in Ohio’s signed off on congressional map. However, it has already been challenged by the National Redistricting Action Fund, which is an affiliate of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. They filed a challenge in the Ohio Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the new map believing it to violate the state Constitution. The future of fair districts may seem uncertain in Ohio, at present, but the important thing to remember is to be diligent in our democracy, and always exercise your right to vote!

Note: Thank you to Professor Glassman for his contributions to our understanding of redistricting and to Anastasia Sakairoun for interviewing him.



Ohio’s new congressional map, unveiled on November 15 by the Ohio House and Senate Republicans, is being challenged in court by the ACLU. *The Columbus Dispatch*

Have You Heard About IPTA?

Noah Seabrook
Gavel Contributor

Do you find yourself traversing the multiverse of possible legal careers you might find yourself in? Perhaps in one of those timelines you find yourself working with a client on trademarking their company logo or working within cybersecurity. If so, then you may consider joining IPTA - the Intellectual Property & Technology Association here at C-M Law. The organization is a relatively non-committal organization outside of their monthly

meetings every third Thursday from noon to one. In the event you miss a general meeting, there is always the opportunity to make it up. Their general meetings present students with the opportunities to not just learn more about each type of IP and Cybersecurity Law, but host panels where distinguished Cleveland professionals come to talk with the members. General meetings and panels will specifically cover areas such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, cybersecurity, cybercrime, and cryptocurrency/blockchain. IPTA is excited to host a cybersecu-

rity panel in the upcoming Spring 2022 semester. Outside of connecting you with numerous legal professionals in IP and related law, IPTA aims to connect students with each other. You will find that the board and higher-level law students want to get to know you and your aspirations in law. In IPTA, you can expect to come across social events like, “Social Hour at Becky’s,” where members can connect with each other to discuss classes and study tips. This also opens a door to step away from the academics aspect of law school, which is crucial

for mental and emotional health. To help with networking, IPTA also references the Cleveland Intellectual Property Law Association (CIPLA), which is essentially IPTA in the real world. Founded in 1918, CIPLA connects practicing attorneys in the Cleveland, Akron, and Canton areas. Their website boasts an extensive community of over four hundred active members and a growing number of student members. CIPLA hosts monthly meetings where members can learn more about current IP and related law practices fol-

lowed by a social hour and dinner. These events are an amazing networking opportunity for any law student. CIPLA members will be quick to introduce themselves to students and are more than willing to meet with them one on one. To learn more about CIPLA, see www.cipla.org. IPTA is accepting new members in the Spring with dues of only ten dollars. Reach out to the Executive Board at cmlaw.ipa@gmail.com to learn more about becoming a member and the exciting Spring 2022 events.

The Student’s for Public Interest Law Organization Explore Different Public Interest Career Paths

Claire Wieczorek
Gavel Contributor

The Student Public Interest Law Organization (“SPILO”) is a student-professional organization designed to serve and connect students pursuing public interest legal careers. As there are many career paths under the public interest law umbrella, SPILO is committed to holding events where its members can improve their understanding of public interest law, gain advice from experienced public interest attorneys, and develop a vision for their public interest career path. This semester, SPILO hosted a three-part speaker series over Zoom with attorneys from a diverse range of public interest practice areas including government, advocacy, and economic development. The first speaker, former CSU professor Joseph Mead, shared a unique perspective as he previously

worked for the government as an attorney for the Department of Justice and then later held the government accountable as an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union. The next event speakers, Dana Barragate and Larissa Bungo (Assistant Regional Director and Staff Attorney for the Federal Trade Commission, respectively), provided students with an overview of the FTC and their experience working for a government agency. The final speaker of the semester, Whitely Granberry, Staff Attorney for the Detroit Justice Center in the Economic Equity Practice Group, discussed her personal career journey, Detroit Justice Center’s mission, and the principles of movement lawyering. Each speaker offered unique insight into developing a public interest legal career. For example, Mr. Mead advised students not to feel pressured to pick a narrow practice area. He explained his broad experi-

ence has given him a deep understanding of trends in the law. Ms. Barragate and Ms. Bungo, who have spent most of their careers working for the FTC, expressed their passion for fighting fraud and the power of government to protect people. Ms. Bungo also stressed to students the importance of following and trusting their own path. Ms. Granberry, whose practice area is community and economic development, talked about how she prioritized a community and a cause that are important to her. Next semester, in addition to continuing hosting lunch-and-learns, SPILO plans to work with career services to host resume and cover letter workshops tailored to public interest driven students. SPILO will also host its second-annual fundraiser to raise funds to support students pursuing a career in public interest law. To stay informed about future SPILO events, follow our Instagram, [@cmlaw_SPILO](https://www.instagram.com/cmlaw_SPILO).

SBA’s Statement on the Barrister’s Ball

Davona Mason
Gavel Contributor

Barrister’s Ball is happening! SBA’s Vice President, Bess Massad, began planning this monumental event during Summer 2021 by visiting numerous venues, identifying photographers, and brainstorming fun activities to make this event worth the wait. According to Massad, “It will be a night to remember!” This is exciting for all CM Law students, because there is currently only one class of students who has seen a Barrister’s Ball, and that is the 4LE group. This year, we will all be able to gather everyone together and celebrate our resilience, progress, success, and

more. We will be hosting Barrister’s Ball *tentatively* on April 2, 2022 at Market Square at Crocker Park in Westlake, Ohio, exactly 31 minutes from CM Law. For this event, we will follow proper CDC protocol, which is subject to change between now and the event date. Ticket sales and other details will be shared as we finalize all agreements. Additionally, we are making efforts to secure a hotel block close to the venue so students have the option to stay nearby. Anyone with suggestions or questions may contact Bess Massad at b.massad@cmlaw.csuohio.edu. We are excited to celebrate with you!



There’s a New Dawn and a New Mayor for Cleveland Heights Citizens!



Issue 26 signs outside a Cleveland Heights polling site. *Annie Wu / ideastream*

Jessica Cohen
Gavel Contributor

This past election day, there was a historic election taking place in Cleveland Heights. As a result of a charter amendment that was approved by voters in 2019, Cleveland Heights residents were able to vote directly for the mayor of the city – for the first time in over 100 years! Most people may think that this is unusual – do not municipalities always directly elect their mayor? The answer is no. In 2017, Cleveland Heights convened a charter review commission to review and suggest amendments to the city charter. This had last been under-

taken by a citizen body over 32 years prior! (This despite a charter provision requiring such a review every ten years.) What many residents learned through this process was that Cleveland Heights was governed by a city manager form of government. This entailed a professional – the city manager – as the person who managed the entire municipality. The “mayor” was actually what other municipalities would call a Council President and was elected by a majority vote of her fellow council members once the council was seated after every two-year election cycle. While the Charter Review Commission recommended

retaining the city manager form of government at the end of its review, a group of Cleveland Heights residents put Issue 26 on the ballot. This would create a directly elected mayor position to lead the city and establish a professional position of Chief Administrative Officer that would function much like the City Manager position functioned under the old government structure. For almost a year, Cleveland Heights residents saw four, three, and finally two candidates battle it out for this historic role. The charter also required a mayoral primary, which took place on September 14. There were four candidates who

declared their candidacy and acquired enough signatures to be put on the ballot. Shortly before the primary, one candidate dropped out, leaving three candidates to face the primary. Political newcomer Barbara Danforth won the primary, knocking out Cleveland Heights City Councilwoman Melody Hart. Cleveland Heights City Councilman Khalil Seren took second place, advancing to the general election with Danforth. In a general election campaign that was fraught with political mishaps and a lot of door knocking, it all came down to Election Day. With what was considered a generally low early voting turnout, both campaigns

were looking to Election Day to swing the vote in their favor. In the end, Seren won the race – surprising some who wondered about his lack of professional experience and generally oppositional stance on many council issues. Others were not surprised at all, given the political missteps Danforth made at critical turning points in the campaign. No matter which candidate Cleveland Heights residents supported, everyone is rooting for this new local government form to succeed, and with it, economic growth and prosperity to a legacy inner-ring suburb.



Cleveland Heights mayoral candidates: Barbara Danforth, Khalil Seren (who ultimately won), and Melody Joy Hart. *ideastream*

CM Law Inducts the 2021 Class of the Hall of Fame

Gabriella Russo
Editor-in-Chief

On November 5, 2021, from 5:30pm-6:30pm, the law school had its annual Hall of Fame ceremony for this year’s inductees. This event was done virtually to accommodate Covid-19 precautions, but the inductees were still lively on screen. Notable inductees include Justice Michael P. Donnelly, Judge Leo A. Jackson, Margaret W. Wong, Colleen M. Cotter, and Judge Nathaniel R. Jones.

Justice Michael P. Donnelly of the Supreme Court of Ohio graduated in the Class of 1991. Before Justice Donnelly became the 160th justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, he was a judge on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common

Pleas, General Division from 2005-2018. From 2010-2017, Justice Donnelly was one of five judges on Cuyahoga County’s Mental Health and Development Disabilities Court, which oversees criminal cases involving defendants who suffer from schizophrenia, or a developmental disability.

The late Judge Leo A. Jackson of the Class of 1950 had a remarkable life in the legal realm. This includes being the Chief Judge of the Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals, the first African American to ever serve in this court. Judge Jackson fought in World War II, and became Ward 24’s – Glenville’s – first black City Council member in 1957, where he remained until 1970.

Margaret W. Wong is the Founder and Managing Partner of Margaret

W. Wong. & Assoc., LLC. Wong is an immigration attorney who has won numerous awards and came to the United States back in 1969 with only her sister, Cecilia. Wong started her own law firm in 1977, with only a single desk sans secretary. In 40 years, she has developed one of the top immigration law firms in all of the United States with offices in Cleveland, Columbus, New York City, Nashville, Chicago, Memphis, Raleigh, Atlanta and Minneapolis.

Colleen M. Cotter is the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and has been since 2005. Legal Aid is a non-profit law firm serving the needs of people with low income, securing safety, shelter, and economic security. Cotter is a member of the Cleveland Metropolitan

Bar Association Board, the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, *Sing Out!* Chorale, and the United Way Board, to name only a few of the many organizations she is a part of.

Late Judge Nathaniel R. Jones was a judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and served as a former adjunct professor at Cleveland-Marshall. Judge Jones was appointed by General Robert Kennedy in 1962, making him the first African American Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. Judge Jones was one of the observers present at the first democratic elections in South Africa and participated in the drafting of the South African constitution. To say he was an extraordinary gentleman is an understatement.

More Hall of Fame inductees include Ann-Marie Ahern, Dean Linda L. Ammons, Hyman Cohen, Tim L. Collins, Georgia A. Froelich, M. Colette Gibbons, David H. Gunning, II, Max I. Kohrman, Brent W. Larkin, Steven B. Lesser, James A. Lowe, Judge Richard M. Markus, Alan Jay Rom, Barbara K. Roman, Honorable Basil M. Russo, Judge Brendan J. Sheehan, David C. Weiner, F. Scott Wilson, Sonia Winner, and Xenophon “Xen” Zapis. Additionally, this year’s Leader on the Rise is Kimberly Kendall Corral.

Congratulations to the entire Hall of Fame Class of 2021! I hope one day I will be able to uphold C-M Law’s legacy of learning law and living justice, and perhaps even become a Hall of Fame inductee myself.



Dean Lee Fisher addresses the crowd with Honoree, Tim Collins.
CM Law



Honoree Judge Brendan Sheehan with Hall of Fame Member Judge Michelle Sheehan.
CM Law



Dean Fisher with Leader on the Rise Kimberly Kendall Corral and family. CM Law



Hall of Fame Members Avery Friedman and Judge Dan Polster with Honoree Alan Jay Rom. CM Law